



Department of State

1980

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY AM: 0750114-0053 DATE 10/9/80

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT 01 1980
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RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 130
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 5932

EXHIBIT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: EOS
TAGS: PINS, AEMR, MOPS, CB, US
SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH
REF: CINCPAC 030150Z APR 75

EXDIS REVIEW

- Cat. A - Caption removed;
transmitted to C/TFDPC
- Cat. B - Transmitted to C/AFPC
with caption removed
controlled by S/S
- Cat. C - Caption removed; body
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Elyah Kelly
Date: Sept. 18, 1979

1. IN LINE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF THINNING OUT OUR RANKS. OVER THE NEXT 48 HOURS WE EXPECT TO MOVE TO BANGKOK APPROXIMATELY 130 AMERICANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR WHOM WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE EVACUATION PLAN. I HAVE INFORMED THE KHMER AUTHORITIES OF OUR INTENTION TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF OUR ESTABLISHMENT HERE TEMPORARILY AND HAVE STRESSED THAT THE BULK OF THE AMERICAN MISSION WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. THIS MORNING I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM ADMIRAL GAVLER IN HAWAII, CALLING TO MY ATTENTION THE INCREASED POTENTIAL THREAT TO PHNOM PENH RESULTING FROM THE CAPTURE BY THE KC OF SEVERAL 105 MM HOWITZERS AND LARGE STOCKS OF 105 MM AMMUNITION IN THE DANAN-NEAK LUONG AREA. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS INTRODUCES A NEW FACTOR INTO THE MILITARY SITUATION BECAUSE IT WILL SHORTLY INCREASE THE THREAT TO POCHENTONG AIRFIELD AND TO THE EMBASSY COMPOUND ITSELF. (CINCPAC 030150Z
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APR 75 REPEATED TO YOU BY THIS EMBASSY.) THERE ARE ALSO CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT THE VC FORCES FREED BY THEIR VICTORY AT MEAK LUONG ARE BEING BROUGHT TO THE PHNOM PENH AREA, WHERE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ATTACK THE SOUTHERN PERIMETER, WHICH AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ONLY VERY LIGHTLY DEFENDED BY FANK.

3. THE ASSESSMENT BY ADMIRAL GAYLER IS SHARED BY GENERAL PALMER, CHIEF OF MEDTC, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE AND THE ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHES WHO ARE WORKING IN THE FIELD GATHERING INFORMATION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL FANK UNITS. WHILE THE TOP KHMER POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND SENIOR FANK OFFICERS ARE CONTINUING TO ACT IN A NORMAL FASHION, OUR ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHES WHO ARE VISITING THE UNITS IN THE FIELD HAVE DETECTED A DETERIORATION OF THEIR MORALE AND A MOOD OF RESIGNATION REGARDING THE INEVITABLE. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT PHNOM PENH HAS ANYWHERE FROM 48 HOURS TO ONE WEEK BEFORE IT WILL SUCCEED TO ENEMY PRESSURE. THE POPULATION IS STILL CALM AT THIS POINT, BUT THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS. WE HAVE HAD SOME UNFORTUNATE ACTS OF LOOTING AS, FOR EXAMPLE, FANK BREAKING INTO A WAREHOUSE TO REMOVE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES WHICH WERE FLOWN IN BY AMERICAN PLANES OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.

4. ADMIRAL GAYLER HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF THAT HE EXECUTE THE FIRST PHASE OF EAGLE PULL "FIRST AVAILABLE DAYLIFT." HIS REASONING, AS I INTERPRET IT ON THE BASIS OF SKETCHY INFORMATION RECEIVED OVER SECURE PHONE, IS THAT WE NOW HAVE THE MEANS TO MOVE OUT A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY KHMER, BECAUSE POCHENTONG REMAINS OPEN. THIS WOULD PERMIT US TO MOVE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF KHMER BY FIXED WING AND ONCE THIS BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE, THE REST OF THE EVACUEES FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE TAKEN OUT BY HELICOPTER. IF I UNDERSTAND HIS REASONING, ADMIRAL GAYLER BELIEVES THAT UNLESS WE MOVE WHILE WE HAVE TIME AND THE CITY IS NOT UNDER INTENSIVE 105 SHELLING,

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SUBJECT: TRILATERAL TALKS - MORNING SESSION - MARCH

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11. COMMENTING ON STATEMENTS BY DUCKWITZ MCCLOY NOTED IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING POSSIBILITY OF RECIPROCAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND EMPHASIZED THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE RAPIDLY. USS, HOWEVER, WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSION IN THIS AREA PROPOSED BY FRG AND HOPES IDEAS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. THOMSON

A-3

12. MCCLOY SAID TALKS SHOULD NOT BE IMPEDED BY STRATEGIC ARGUMENTS BASED ON PURELY FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. IN HIS VIEW, UK "TRIP WIRE" STRATEGY IS POISONOUS SINCE IT RESULTS IN ONLY TWO OPTIONS: DESTRUCTION OR SURRENDER. IN REBUTTAL, THOMSON

13. IN REPLY TO DUCKWITZ SUGGESTION THAT WGII EXAMINE US AND UK "REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES" MCCLOY COMMENTED THAT ANY DETAILED STUDY WOULD BE PREMATURE SINCE US HAD MADE NO DECISIONS ON REDUCTION OF FORCES. THOMSON THEN BROKE IN TO ASSERT UK HAD ALSO TAKEN NO SUCH DECISION. MCCLOY FELT GENERAL STUDY COULD BE MADE LIMITED E.G. TO TYPES OF AIRLIFT AVAILABLE NOW AND IN FUTURE. HE NOTED USS VIEW THAT DEVICES COULD BE WORKED OUT FOR REIN-

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FORCEMENT WHICH COULD AFFORD ADEQUATE ASSURANCE TO EUROPEAN NATIONS. BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO BEAR IN MIND EASE WITH WHICH WARSAW PACT CAN REINFORCE AS COMPARED TO EITHER UK OR US.

14. THOMSON THEN PROPOSED A NEW WORKING GROUP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MCCLOY EXPRESSED DOUBT AS TO GROUP'S UTILITY: IT COULD MAKE NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON "AMOUNTS" UNTIL GERMAN CABINET HAD REACHED DECISIONS; FURTHER, THIS ACTIVITY WOULD GET INTO RANGE OF QUESTIONS WHICH GERMAN BUNDESBANK BEELS STRONGLY SHOULD BE DECIDED OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENTS DUCKWITZ

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15. MCCLOY AGREED TO A FACTUAL STUDY BUT RFG DELEGATION PERSISTED WITH NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. IT WAS DECIDED TO EXPLORE MATTER FURTHER DURING LUNCH.

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15. THE PRINCIPALS ACCERTED MCCLOY'S SUGGESTION OF MEETING MARCH 20 RATHER THAN 16-17 IN ORDER ALLOW FRG MORE TIME FOLLOWING CABINET DECISIONS EXPECTED MARCH 15.

27. THOMSON ALSO TABLED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUP ON RECIPROCAL REDUCTION. NEITHER US NOR FRG DELEGATION COMMENTED ON THIS DRAFT AT MORNING SESSION. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FINALLY AGREED TERMS OF REFERENCE.)

13. WGLI'S REPORT ON IMBALANCES IN FORCES OF NATO CENTRAL REGION, REQUESTED ON MONDAY, WAS TABLED, NOTED AND REFERRED TO NATO DPC FOR CONSIDERATION FORCE PLANNING EXERCISE.

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